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FM THE SITUATION ROOM

TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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TOHAK 90

DELIVER TO BREMER/RODMAN FOR THE SECRETARY.

MAY 6, 1974

TO: HENRY A. KISSINGER
FROM: BRENT SCOWCROFT

NOTHING VERY EXCITING AT STAFF MEETING THIS MORNING. BURCH SAID THAT THE PRESIDENT'S PHOENIX APPEARANCE WAS A REAL SUCCESS ON ALL ACCOUNTS AND SPOKANE, WHILE IT WAS NONPOLITICAL, WENT WELL. TIMMONS SAID THAT THE MILITARY PROCUREMENT BILL AND SUPPLEMENTAL WOULD BE UP IN THE SENATE THIS WEEK AND HE WAS NOT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE OUTCOME. HAIG SAID THERE MAY BE A CABINET MEETING LATE IN THE WEEK ON THE "NEW INITIATIVES" WHICH WERE TO HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED BY EACH DEPARTMENT. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT HEARINGS IN THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE WOULD PROBABLY BEGIN LATE THIS WEEK, WITH CLOSED HEARINGS ALL NEXT WEEK AND OPEN TELEVISED HEARINGS BEGINNING TWO WEEKS FROM TODAY. HAIG CONCLUDED THAT THE PRESIDENT CAME OUT OF LAST WEEK ABOUT AS WELL AS COULD HAVE BEEN HOPED. IT WAS BAD, BUT THE WORST THEY HAD FEARED DID NOT HAPPEN. THEY HAD BEEN AFRAID THAT THE MATERIAL MIGHT BE VIEWED AS BEING SO REPUGNANT THAT A GROUND SWELL AGAINST THE PRESIDENT WOULD ARISE. THAT DID NOT HAPPEN.

State Dept. review completed

MORI/CDP
C03344797

HAIG DID A GOOD JOB ON "ISSUES AND ANSWERS." IT WAS COMPLETELY WATERGATE AND THE QUESTIONS WERE NOT PARTICULARLY BRILLIANT.

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

I WAS CHATTING WITH HAIG LATER ON TODAY AND HE MENTIONED HIS PROBLEMS IN ECONOMIC ORGANIZATION TO ACCOMMODATE SHULTZ'S DEPARTURE. APPARENTLY ASH IS MAKING A BIG PUSH TO BECOME OVERALL COORDINATOR IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD. I TOLD HIM I THOUGHT

***** * * * * * WHSR COMMENT * * * * *

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THAT WOULD BE A DISASTER AND HE COULD NOT LET IT HAPPEN. HE SEEMED TO AGREE AND I GATHER HE WAS THINKING OF DIVIDING RESPONSIBILITIES BETWEEN BILL SIMON AND PERHAPS HERB STEIN, OR EVEN BRINGING IN A NEW ASSISTANT FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS. FOR CIEP, HE IS THINKING OF MERGING IT WITH STR AND PUTTING BILL EBERLE IN CHARGE, BUT WITH A DIRECT LINE TO THE PRESIDENT RATHER THAN THROUGH TREASURY AS HAS BEEN THE CASE UNDER SHULTZ. IF YOU HAVE ANY INPUT YOU WOULD LIKE ME TO MAKE, LET ME KNOW.

HAIG ALSO MENTIONED THAT THE JEWISH GRAPEVINE, APPARENTLY THROUGH LEN GARMENT, WAS SAYING THAT GOLDA MEIR WAS BESIDE HERSELF ABOUT THE PRESIDENTIAL LETTERS. I POINTED OUT THAT THEY HAD ACTUALLY DESERVED MORE THAN THEY GOT IN VIEW OF THE PROPOSAL THEY HIT YOU WITH WHEN YOU ARRIVED. HE WAS NOT CONCERNED ABOUT THE LETTERS, JUST PASSING ON HOW THEY HAD BEEN RECEIVED.

APPARENTLY SCOOP JACKSON HAS ASKED DEFENSE FOR A "INDEPENDENT EVALUATION" OF HIS SALT PROPOSAL.

A TICKER ITEM JUST RECEIVED STATES THAT A GERMAN GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED WILLY BRANDT'S RESIGNATION.

THE SENATE DEFEATED TODAY, 39-41, THE ACCOUNTING PROCEDURE WHICH WOULD HAVE GIVEN VIETNAM \$266 MILLION IN MASF.

WARM REGARDS.

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